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## Monthly Performance Report

FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT
FEBRUARY 1979





National Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Program

National Solar Data Program



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### MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

### FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT GAS COMPANY

### FEBRUARY 1979

### SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The Facilities Development Gas Company site is a three-story, multifamily condominium consisting of 31 units in San Diego, California. Solar energy is used for preheating domestic hot water (DHW) for the complex. The solar energy system has an array of flat-plate collectors with a gross area of 520 square feet. The array faces south at an angle of 42 degrees to the horizontal. Potable water is the transfer medium that delivers solar energy from the collector array to storage. Solar energy is stored underground in an insulated 1000-gallon glass-lined tank. Preheated water from the storage tank is supplied, on demand, to 31 conventional 52-gallon DHW tanks. When solar energy is insufficient to satisfy the hot water load, two electrical heating elements, energized separately within the individual DHW tanks, provide auxiliary energy for water heating. The system, shown schematically in Figure 1, has two modes of solar operation.

Mode 1 - Collector-to-Storage: This mode activates when the water temperature in the collectors is 9°F higher than the temperature of the storage tank. Water is pumped through the collectors and circulates back to storage until the temperature difference is 3°F or less.

Mode 2 - Storage-to-DHW Tank: This mode activates when there is a demand for hot water replenishment by the individual DHW tank. Water from storage circulates by thermosiphoning action through a supply service loop to the individual DHW tanks and returns through a service line to storage. The water in each DHW tank is maintained at an average temperature which is thermostatically controlled. When required, additional energy is supplied by an electrical auxiliary element.

### II. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

### INTRODUCTION

The site was occupied in February and the solar energy system operated continuously during the month. Solar energy satisfied 21 percent of the DHW requirements. The solar energy system provided electrical energy savings of 8.9 million Btu.

### WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the month, total incident solar energy on the collector array was 25.0 million Btu for a daily average of 1719 Btu per square foot. This was below the estimated average daily solar radiation for this geographical area

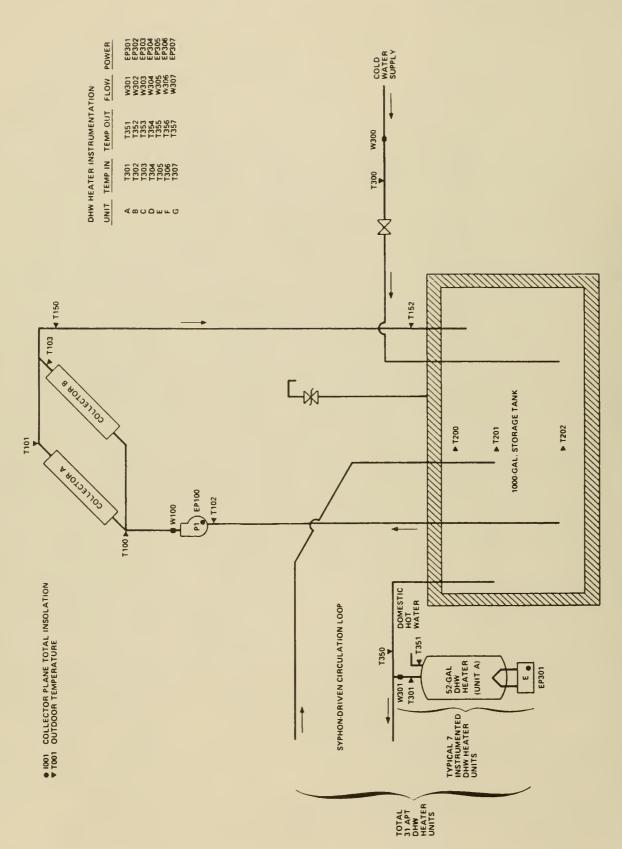


Figure 1. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

during February of 1757 Btu per square foot for a south-facing plane with a tilt of 42 degrees to the horizontal. The average ambient temperature during February was 53°F as compared with the long-term average for February of 57°F. The number of heating degree-days for the month (based on a 65°F reference) was 326, as compared with the long-term average of 237.

### THERMAL PERFORMANCE

System - During February the solar energy system performed approximately the same as expected. The expected performance was determined from a modified f-chart analysis using measured weather and subsystem loads as inputs. Solar energy collected was 11.2 million Btu versus an estimated 11.4 million Btu. Solar energy used by the system was estimated by assuming that all energy collected would be applied to the load. Actual solar energy used was 9.2 million Btu. System total solar fraction was 21 percent versus an estimated 26 percent.

Collector - The total incident solar radiation on the collector array for the month of February was 25.0 million Btu. During the period the collector loop was operating, the total insolation amounted to 22.8 million Btu. The total collected solar energy for the month of February was 11.2 million Btu, resulting in a collector array efficiency of 45 percent, based on total incident insolation. Solar energy delivered from the collector array to storage was 9.8 million Btu. Energy loss during transfer from the collector array to storage was 1.4 million Btu. This loss represented 12 percent of the energy collected. Operating energy required by the collector loop was 0.23 million Btu.

Storage - Solar energy delivered to storage was 9.8 million Btu. There were 9.2 million Btu delivered from storage to the DHW subsystem. Energy loss from storage was 0.78 million Btu. This loss represented 8 percent of the energy delivered to storage. The storage efficiency was 92 percent: This is calculated as the ratio of the sum of the energy removed from storage and the change in stored energy, to the energy delivered to storage. The average storage temperature for the month was 95°F.

DHW Load - The DHW subsystem consumed 9.2 million Btu of solar energy and 35.4 million Btu of auxiliary electrical energy. The solar fraction of the hot water load was 21 percent. The hot water load was not determined. The DHW subsystem resulted in an electrical energy savings of 9.2 million Btu. A daily average of 934 gallons of DHW was consumed.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

The collected solar energy, the collector loop operating energy, energy delivered to storage, solar energy used, and hot water consumed, were derived from overall solar energy system parameters. The auxiliary electrical energy used (representing the entire building) was extrapolated from the averages of seven instrumented apartment units.

The hot water load and the average value of the hot water temperature supplied to the building has not been determined because of inadequate instrumentation.

### **ENERGY SAVINGS**

The solar energy system provided a total electrical energy savings of 8.9 million Btu.

### III. ACTION STATUS

No action is required at this time.

## AND COOLING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM SOLAR HEATING

## MCNTHLY REPORT SITE SUMMARY

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